

PENDING CLAIMS

47. A method for screening candidate compounds capable of inhibiting HMGI biological activity which comprises the steps of:

- a) immobilizing an HMGI protein, or a fragment thereof, on a solid surface;
- b) incubating the HMGI protein, or a fragment thereof, with a candidate compound under conditions which promote optimal interaction; and
- c) identifying candidate compounds which bind to the HMGI protein, or a fragment thereof; and
- d) measuring the binding affinity of the candidate compounds in step (c);
- e) transfecting into a cell a DNA construct which contains a reporter gene under the control of an HMGI protein-regulated promoter;
- f) administering to the cell a candidate compound from step (c);
- g) measuring the levels of reporter gene expression in the presence and absence of the candidate compound; and
- h) determining from the levels of reporter gene expression which candidate compounds modulate the HMGI biological activity.

48. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the candidate compound inhibits HMGI biological activity in the amount of at least 10%.

49. (New) The method according to claim 48, wherein the candidate compound inhibits HMGI biological activity in the amount of at least 25%.